**Undisbursed funds received from International agencies**

431. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether undisbursed but committed funds of international agencies and banks are estimated at 13 billion dollar currently, if so, what is the interest being paid on this amount per month;

(b) what are the reasons for not putting to use the committed loan amount and who are responsible therefor; and

(c) what is the contemplated amount of repayment of loans this year and what is the demand of international agencies and whether there is any gap in this respect, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The undisbursed but committed funds of multilateral financing agencies including the World Bank Group were estimated at $10.9 billion, as on 1-4-1989. No interest charges are payable on committed but undisbursed amounts.

(b) Commitments of assistance are against specific project investments intended to be carried out over periods extending upto eight years. Disbursements depend on project schedule, and their actual implementation; consequently undisbursed amounts would remain till final completion of the project.

(c) Repayments of principal and interest are made according to the terms and conditions of the loans. The amount of repayment of external loans for 1989-90 to multilateral financing agencies is estimated at Rs. 927.98 crores.

**Quantum of cotton and varieties allowed for export . . . .**

432. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of cotton along with their varieties allowed for export in view of good crop and surplus in the country;

(b) whether only State agencies or co-operatives are allowed to export cotton or big private traders are also allowed to export cotton and what is the procedure for selecting exporters; and

(c) what are the international prices for our export varieties and their domestic prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Government have released an export quota of 101241 bales of Bengal Deshi cotton and one lakh bales of extra long staple cotton during the currenet cotton year.

(b) The private traders are allotted specific quantities for export against the quotas released to them on the basis of the highest unit value realisation quoted by them in sealed tenders, subject to the limit of 25 per cent of the quota in favour of any single party. Public Sector agencies are allowed to export cotton against quotas released to them at or above minimum export prices.

(c) The ruling domestic and international prices of export varieties of cotton are as follows:—

| Variety | Domestic Sports Price US CENTS/ LB | International FOB Price US CENTS/ LB |
|---|---|---|
| Bengal Deshi . | 46.99 | 74 to 80 |
| DCH-32 . . | 140.34 | 201.00 |

**Interest rates on House Building Advance to Central Government Employees**

433. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the interest rates being charged towards house building advance being gran-

ted to the Central Government employees so as to bring it at par with that prevailing in various public sector undertakings| banks;

(b) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government also propose to provide more funds to various Ministries| Departments towards building advance so as to cater to the maximum number of applicants for house building advance in Ministries/Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rates of interest charged on House Building Advance to Government employees are already concessional as these are less than the average rate of Government borrowings.

(c) The provision of funds has increased from Rs. 85 crores in 1987-88 to Rs. 115 crores in 1988-89 and Rs. 125 crores in 1989-90 (BE).

**Buying of cotton by NTC**

434. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation is buying cotton from Chief Controller of Imports only or from private traders also;

(b) what was the earlier practice and whether there is any change in the practice, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether complaints have been received from the workers with regard to bad quality of cotton supplied to them resulting into lower production; if so, what are the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) The Chief Controller of Imports does not sell cotton. National Textile Corporation is buying cotton mostly from institutional suppliers viz. Cotton Corporation of India, Maharashtra Cotton Federation, Markfed, Hafed and other State level Cotton Federations and Cotton Cooperatives. NTC is also buying cotton from private traders to the maximum extent of 30 per cent of its total requirements. This arrangement is in operation for sometime and no change has been made recently.

(c) No, Sir.

**Harassment of Tihar Jail Officials**

435.. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3609 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Saini was not relieved by the Tihar Jail Officials during the period from 13th January, 1987 to 10th February, 1987 with an intention to harass him; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not relieving him and what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

436. [*Transferred to the 8th May, 1989*]

**Price situation**

437. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Price Situation causing concern" which appeared in the Statesman, Calcutta edition on the 6th March, 1989; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The news item under refer-